JUNE 2015





RESERVE SAILOR OF THE YEAR



SUBMARINE FORCE
RESERVE:
EXPEDITIONARY
MAINTENANCE



ARDENT SENTRY:
SUPPORTING CIVIL
AUTHORITIES
IN DISASTER
RESPONSE



Expeditionary
Combat
Readiness
Center



STRATEGIC SEALIFT OFFICER PROGRAM

▼ Equipment Operator 1st Class Mike Rhodes and Yeoman 3rd Class Jordan Guevara practice folding the national ensign. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ty Bjornson)



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TNR is always looking for action photos of Navy Reserve Sailors (minimum 300 dpi) that tell a story of Reserve Sailor support to the fleet. Please provide full identification of all individuals in the photograph, including their respective rating, rank and command. Photos should also include a visual information record identification number or VIRIN. Information about VIRINs is available online at www.navy.mil/photo_submit.asp. Submissions should be received eight weeks prior to publication month (i.e. Sept. 1st for the Nov. issue).

NEWS ONLINE: TNR current and past issues, and Navy Reserve news and social media sites, can be accessed online at www.navyreserve.navy.mil. Navy Reserve News Stand, a website featuring Navy Reserve news and photos, plus links to Navy fleet pages, can be viewed at: www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Selected Reserve and Full-Time Support Sailors must submit address changes through NSIPS (Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System) via their Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) personnel office. If you are not a Reserve Sailor, but would like to be added to the TNR mailing list, please forward your name and address to <code>cnrfc1@gmail.com</code>.

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FOCUS ON THE FORCE



Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun

Commander, Navy Operational Support Center Pensacola Cmdr. Anthony Bayungan, Deputy Director, National Museum of Naval Aviation Mr. Buddy Macon, Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun, and Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt, perform a ribbon cutting of the Reserve Aviation Exhibit at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola. (U.S. Navy photo)



"Our servicemen and women shoulder the burden of defense as one of the responsibilities of citizenship in this free country. Having participated in protecting our rights and having met oppression on the battlegrounds of the world, they are able to appreciate and savor the blessings of citizenship in the country they serve." General Earle Wheeler, USA

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff 1964-70

Shipmates,

Last month, Americans celebrated Armed Forces Day to honor the sacrifice and commitment of military service members. In honor of the Navy Reserve Centennial, I was invited to represent our Force at a number of these events throughout the nation. Whether in Milwaukee, Louisville, Spokane, or Chicago, the outpouring of support and gratitude for those who serve was truly inspiring. It underscores the spirit and meaning of General Wheeler's words (above) and of the day on which we honor all service members.

Armed Forces Day was a great opportunity to talk about the tremendous operational support you provide to the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Force. From our CNAFR squadrons and SAUs, who safely and professionally support the Fleet every day, to our Information Dominance Corps who provide critical information to the warfighter, to augment units and expeditionary forces who are woven into the daily battle rhythm of the Fleets and COCOMs, to our medical and religious support teams who care for service members across the globe, the Navy Reserve is always ready to support - anytime and anywhere.

During our visit to Chicago, we met with an organization that supports veteran-led entrepreneurial ventures called "The Bunker" and talked with veterans who have used the Bunker's network to create and launch successful businesses. There are plans to establish Bunkers at eight additional cities across the nation to serve as business "incubators and accelerators" to provide the environment, counseling, and training necessary to help veteran entrepreneurs in their quest to become small business owners. If you are interested in learning more about this dynamic resource, visit: www.bunkerincubator.com

Also last month, our 2014 Sailor of the Year, CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew from Beatrice, Nebraska was meritoriously advanced to Chief Petty Officer during a ceremony at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. Our Reserve Sailor of the Year Week is always a highlight of the year, giving us the opportunity to get to know some of our top First Class Petty Officers across the Force. Congratulations again to Chief Bartholomew and our impressive 2014 Reserve SOY finalists: HM1(FMF) Steven Flemming from 1st Battalion 23rd Marines, AZ1(AW) Ansel Glendenning from VR-61 NAS Whidbey, GM1(EXW/SCW) Jessica Harrison from NOSC Greenville, and MM1 Keith Wright from Surgemain Nashville. The accomplishments of these outstanding Sailors are truly noteworthy and their personal stories of commitment to the Navy, their families, and their communities are inspiring.

"BRAVO ZULU" to NOSC Oklahoma City for the funeral honors support they recently provided for a homeless Navy veteran. Unable to locate his next-of-kin, the local Social Services reached out to NOSC Oklahoma City for help and funeral honors support. Word spread on social media and the Memorial Service became a standing-room only event to honor this departed Shipmate. I want to thank NOSC Oklahoma City and all of our Funeral Honors teams for their dedication to honoring thousands of Navy veterans every year. Finally, congratulations to our Sailors across our Force who were recently advanced! It was wonderful to see advancement opportunity increase across all FTS and SELRES paygrades this cycle. As always, we appreciate the great work you are doing throughout the Fleet!

> Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve

Force Master Chief (AW/SW) CJ Mitchell

Reserve Sailor of the Year Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew is presented a plaque by Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun and Reserve Force Master Chief CJ Mitchell. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok)



Shipmates,

Around this time every spring, I have the honor of introducing you to the Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year. And each year, without fail, I am continually amazed at the level of talent, drive and dedication to our Navy Core Values that is demonstrated by each and every one of the candidates who compete for this prestigious title. Indeed, just reaching the final level of the competition is a huge accomplishment in and of itself.

For 2015, the title of Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year goes to Chief Construction Mechanic (SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew, currently assigned to NOSC Omaha.

As is nearly always the case with Sailors who achieve this level of prestige, it was selfless dedication to his fellow Seabees, and the manner in which he empowered them to succeed during a recent mobilization, that ultimately led to then CM1 Bartholomew earning this coveted award, and being meritoriously promoted to

Ask Bartholomew what he views as highlights of that mobilization to Afghanistan, and he'll tell you not about any personal accolades he may have received, but rather about the two junior members of his battalion he watched get meritoriously advanced to the next pay grade, or about how every eligible Seabee in his company earned their combat warfare pin.

Such a commitment to the success of one's fellow Sailors is something that is emblematic of all our organization's successful leaders, and it's a trait that we should all be constantly challenging ourselves to improve upon.

At the same time we're supporting and leading our shipmates, we also need to be looking inward and asking ourselves exactly how it is we're best equipping ourselves to achieve success.

Whether you're a first class anxiously waiting for upcoming Reserve/FTS CPO board results, or a third class who just took an advancement exam for the first time, it's important that you be committed to do all you can to work, prepare, study, and give your best effort in trying to reach that next level.

Advancement opportunity is increasing, and there are opportunities to continue your career and advance in undermanned ratings via RC-RC rating conversions. The LDO/CWO community offers a chance for more senior personnel to pursue a commission and take their career to next level. To learn about your options insist on a robust and thorough career development board to become educated about what is available to you.

There is a lot going on as we head into summer (Advancement Results, CPO results, Centennial Events, vacations and the Fall advancement exam in August). I challenge and encourage each one of you to continue to look out for one another while doing all you can to equip yourselves for success and safety both on and offduty.

In time, such habits become second nature. And, after a while – who knows – you just might find yourself in the running for Sailor of the Year. Are You Ready to be a Sailor of the Year?

I hope to see you soon! Please be safe and take care of each other.

Force 15

FORCM CJ Mitchell



Reserves and Radiomen

The Battle of Midway

By Master Chief Information Systems Technician James L. Leuci, Naval History and Heritage Command

"Are those ships? I think we hit the jackpot."

Those words, spoken on June 3, 1942, marked the beginning of the end of Japan's naval dominance in the Pacific and the start of the Battle of Midway. A PBY-5A Catalina from Patrol Squadron Forty Four (VP-44) had just spotted Japanese transport ships 700 miles west of Midway Island. The PBY scouted the Japanese formation for three hours, radioing information back to Midway. The VP-44 PBY was not discovered by the Japanese and safely returned to Naval Air Station Midway Island.

A year before the Battle of Midway the Naval Reserve had been fully mobilized. That summer, over 11,000 Reserve officers and 35,000 enlisted men had been recalled to active duty, essentially the entire Naval Reserve. VP-44 had an allowance of 101 enlisted men in the summer of 1941. A year later, on June 3, 1942, the number of enlisted Sailors had grown to 350. The number of enlisted Reserve Sailors had increased from 10 to 91 – an increase from 9 percent to 25 percent. The ratio of Reserve officer pilots to regular Navy officer pilots was well over 50 percent and growing.

The Catalina crew which detected the Japanese invasion fleet consisted of three officers and five enlisted men. The pilot, Ensign Jewell "Jack" Harmon Reid, USN, had been an enlisted Naval Aviation Pilot (NAP). He was appointed to the temporary rank of Ensign in March 1942. The other two flight officers, copilot Ensign Gerald H. Hardeman and navigator Ensign Robert A. Swan, were Naval Reserve aviators. The five enlisted crewmen were all active duty Sailors.

Hardeman and Swan were typical of many of the naval aviators that flew in combat during the early days of World War II. Both entered the Naval Reserve as aviation cadets in the late 1930s. The aviation cadet program, known as the V-5 program, became the primary source for Naval Aviators in the years leading up to WWII. By July 1941, over 4,000 Aviation Cadets and Naval Reserve aviators had been mobilized. Many of them went on to



fly during the Battle of Midway for air squadrons assigned to USS Hornet CV-8, USS Enterprise CV-6, USS Yorktown CV-5, and Midway Island. They flew in fighter, bomber, torpedo, and patrol squadrons.

Naval aviators, officers and enlisted, bore the brunt of the casualties during the Battle of Midway. Reserve ensigns and active duty aviation radiomen became the most common casualties. Many of them flew in torpedo bomber squadrons, which suffered extremely high losses.

Over 300 Sailors and Marines were lost during the Battle of Midway, including nearly 200 naval aviation personnel – both officer and enlisted. Of the 64 naval aviator officers who died, 44 were Reserve officers. Over 200 enlisted men, including 50 radiomen, died during the battle, including Sailors aboard USS Hammann DD-412 and USS Yorktown CV-5 which were both sunk.

Over the next three years, the ratio of Reserve Sailors to active duty Sailors would continue to rise eventually reaching 80 percent. However, during the Battle of Midway, Naval Reserve aviators and active duty radiomen paid a high portion of the price for victory.



■ VT-3 Squadron pilots, photographed at Naval Air Station, Kaneohe, Hawaii, in late May 1942, just before the Battle of Midway. Most of these men lost their lives in that action. Those present include Ensign Carl A. Osberg, USNR; Machinist John R. Baker, USN; Ensign Oswald A. Powers, USNR; Ensign David J. Roche, USNR; Ensign Donald E. Weissenborn, USNR; Radio Electrician Werner I. Weis, USN; Lt. j.g. Richard W. Suesens, USNR; Lt. Patrick H. Hart, USN, Executive Officer; Lt. Cmdr. Lance E. Massey, USN, Commanding Officer; Lt. j.g. Curtis W. Howard, USN; Lt. j.g. John N. Myers, USN; Lt. j.g. Fred C. Herriman, USNR; Machinist Harry L. Corl, USN; Ensign Wesley F. Osmus, USNR; Ensign Otho W. Schneider, USNR; Ensign John M. Armitage, USNR; Ensign Gerald R. Stablein, USNR; Ensign Leonard L. Smith, USNR; Chief Machinist's Mate John W. Haas, USN; Chief Aviation Pilot Wilhelm G. Esders, USN. (U.S. Navy photo)

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

We have many talented people in our Navy Reserve. Each month we highlight our stellar Sailors and some of the unique careers, skills and services they provide to the fleet.





Electronics Technician 2nd Class **Johnathan Salas**

Hometown: Whittier, California Command: Navy Operational Support Center North Island

Brief description of your Navy job:

As a technician, I am responsible for the preservation and immediate repair of all communications equipment. At the NOSC, I am accountable for the oversight, detailing, processing, and corrections of pay. I also oversee late drill requests, and the scheduling of drills.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement? My greatest achievement would have to be during my second deployment off the coast of Somalia. Our ship successfully intercepted a pirate vessel, and the VBSS team received hands-on experience.

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy? There have been several Sailors who have had an impact on my Navy career, but the one that has stood out the most would be my first chief. ETC Broussard was a great leader and mentor. He laid an amazing foundation for what it takes to be a Sailor, and what it means to be a leader.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy?

The greatest thing in the Navy is the constant change and challenge. Every day there is a new issue and another task that needs to be accomplished; whether it be one known or one that needs to be researched.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy: After four deployments, Senegal, Africa, has been the most interesting place I have visited. The culture and dynamics opened my eyes to things I had never seen before. I enjoyed touring the city and learning how other cultures live their daily lives.

Current hobbies:

I enjoy painting, staying in shape, and socializing.

To nominate a Sailor, send an email to cnrfc1@gmail.com for a submission form. Please include a high-resolution (300 dpi) 5" x 7" digital photo of the candidate.



Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Alvin Valencia

Hometown: Glendale, California Command: Navy Operational Support Center Detroit

Brief description of your Navy job:

I represent the Reserve services department and am responsible for maintaining 550 personnel records. I process all gains, losses, and transfers, assist in the administration of 200 advancement exams and their returns, and administratively handle 12,000 rounds of ammunition yearly.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement? My best tour was being forward deployed in Japan on USS Stethem (DDG 63). The eight-month deployment to the Persian Gulf was an experience that maximized my capacity for hard work and developed skills in my professional and personal life. We received the Battle "E" award that year which reflected the hard work the crew put in during the deployment.

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the **Navy?** The two that influenced my Navy career the most are GM1 Radamus Harris and PS1 Jonathan Chambers. GM1 helped me grow as a person, and taught me strong-willed leadership and the importance of work ethic. PS1 instilled the idea of pride in professional and the benefits of a servant leadership. I am very fortunate to have two contrasting types of effective leaders to take me under their wings and make me who I am today.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy?

What I enjoy most about the Navy is being around such a diversified group of Sailors; I have had some of the best experiences of my life and an amazing family of friends.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy: The most interesting place I visited was Phuket, Thailand. I love everything about it from the rich culture to the beautiful temples and nature views.

Current hobbies:

I really embrace home renovating and exercising. The fun and challenges of renovations are rewarding experiences. I like to go on food 'runs' and try new places to eat.



Career Counselor Resources

By Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command N15 Force Retention

In the constantly evolving environment we live in, accurate information is critical to a successful career and effective counseling for Sailors. While the role of the unit command career counselor should not be minimized, it is the responsibility of every Sailor, as well as their leadership team, to stay informed, and much of the information is available to the individual Sailor without having to go through their career counselor.

The Navy Reserve Homeport (https://private.navyreserve.navy. mil/) is a tremendous source of information, with the N15 page located under Commands > CNRFC > N-Codes > N1 Manpower & Personnel. A CAC-enabled computer is required and the e-mail certificate is selected to login. This page provides easy access to a wealth of career information, including the following resources:

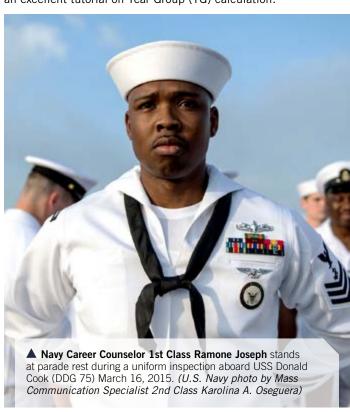
Site Resources

- ★ REFERENCES: Current policy to include instructions, messages, and manuals from BUPERS, CNRF, NAVPERS, OPNAV, and SECNAV.
- ★ ASSESSMENTS: Monthly report templates, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) and career development board (CDB) guidance, and the Command Information Program Review (CIPR) Assessment Guide.
- ★ CAREER WAYPOINTS: Guidance and information on Sailor qualification, as well as the Conversion, Transition, and Reenlistment (AC/FTS) modules.
- ★ T-GPS: Guidance on requirements, documentation, and system access for Sailors transitioning from military to civilian life.
- ★ ISIC CONFERENCE 2015: Briefings from the 2015 Immediate Superior In Command (ISIC) Navy Counselor (NC) Conference.
- **★ BEST PRACTICES:** Populated with best practices from throughout the Force.
- ★ TRAINING MATERIALS: Materials including Reserve Affiliation Success Workshop (RASW), Officer Candidate School (OCS), High Year Tenure (HYT), and more.
- ★ AWARDS and RECOGNITION: Career Counselor of the Year (CCOY) and Reserve Personnel Programs Excellence Award (RPPEA).
- **★ FORMS:** Commonly used forms, templates, & Page 13s.
- ★ ARCHIVES: Legacy content under review for retention.

Although contact information for N15 personnel is available, members are encouraged to utilize their Navy Reserve Activity (NRA) and Reserve Component Command (RCC) or Aviation Wing first. Links to the Enlisted Assignment Specialists (N121), Reserve Policy and Education Programs (N1C2), and Reserve Enlisted Incentives (N112) are also available.

In addition to the N15 site, there are many career information resources in the public domain that do not require a CAC-enabled computer. Sailors can find available information on the Navy Personnel Command website at: http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/Pages/default.aspx.

An impressive amount of information can also be found under Career Info, Enlisted, and Reference Library. Of particular interest to anyone pursuing a rating conversion is the Selected Reserves (SELRES) page accessed under Enlisted > Community Managers. Located on this page is a link to the SELRES Manning table, which provides personnel inventories as well as current and future fiscal year Enlisted Program Authorization (EPA) levels for each SELRES rating and paygrade. This readily identifies ratings that are currently undermanned, and those that may continue to be so into the future. Also available is a link to the RC to AC page that contains application guidance, current RC to AC/FTS quotas, and an excellent tutorial on Year Group (YG) calculation.



Retiring or Separating: Ensure Medical Records are Turned In for Future Care

By Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

All Sailors need to personally ensure their medical and dental records are available to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by returning them to their medical treatment facility at retirement or separation.

"A benefit of service is a lifetime of support from the VA," said Ann Stewart, director, Pay and Personnel Management. "To make sure Sailors can get the best level of support possible, they need to make sure their medical records have been turned in to the appropriate medical facility when they separate or retire from the Navy. A copy of medical and dental records will be provided to separating or retiring Sailors."

Before a Sailor separates or retires, commanding officers (CO) and officers in charge (OIC) are responsible for ensuring that the medical department or medical treatment facility knows the Sailor is separating or retiring, and that their Service Treatment Records (STR), medical and dental records, are at the appropriate medical and dental facilities. This guarantees that the records will be available to the VA. Medical departments or medical treatment facilities should annotate on command/organization check-out

sheets the disposition of a Sailors STR (per NAVADMIN 187/14) prior to detachment.

"There may come a time when you need to file a claim with the VA, and they will check to verify your period of service in the Navy," Stewart said. "Making sure your record is left at the appropriate medical or dental facility when you leave the Navy means that the VA will have immediate access to your records and can expedite care."

It is essential that all Navy leaders and Sailors understand their responsibility when it comes to storing and handling their medical and dental records, and their disposition after separation or retirement. Non-compliance with policy could impact timely adjudication of their VA benefits.

"Getting your records turned in and making sure the medical department or medical treatment facility knows you are separating or retiring really is in your best interest," Stewart said. "Make sure you have access to what you've earned."

For more information, read NAVADMIN 187/14 at www.npc. navy.mil







Navy Reserve Office of the Chief of Information



ay I have the envelope please?" These words may bring to mind televised contests with celebrities, singers, dancers or pageant competitors, but this envelope holds the results of a contest between a health care auditor, a high school teacher, a locomotive engineer, a firefighter and an aviation maintenance administrator.

As the five finalists for the 2014 Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) were waiting to hear their name called, Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun explained who they were. "You only need to talk to these Sailors for a few minutes to understand why, out of the approximately 10,000 first class petty officers in the Navy Reserve, they were the fantastic five that were chosen to represent the Navy Reserve."

The five finalists represented a variety of strengths. Each



uniquely shaped by their civilian occupation, dedication to service, and hometown. Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew is assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 25. As a civilian, he is a locomotive engineer for Union Pacific Railroad. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Steven Flemming is assigned to 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. He works as a firefighter. Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Ansel Glendenning is assigned to Navy Reserve Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 61, is currently mobilized, and has been on orders for the last seven years. Gunner's Mate 1st Class Jessica Harrison is assigned to Navy Operational Support Center Greenville, South Carolina. In a nearby town, she teaches high school. And, Machinist's Mate 1st Class Keith Wright is assigned to Surgemain Nashville. He audits new and current providers for Medicare as a civilian.

The RSOY competition culminated in a week of events in the capitol region honoring the finalists. Each Sailor was sent from their home command to D.C. with their spouse, where they visited the Pentagon, White House, U.S. Capitol and Navy History

Museum, and met with Navy leadership. The final stage was set at the United States Navy Memorial where the winner was announced.

Handing the envelope to Braun, Navy Reserve Force Master Chief CJ Mitchell said to the nominees, "You are all winners and I am proud to be your force master chief."

The room — filled with senior leadership, shipmates and family — was silent as Braun read the name, "CM1 Jimie Bartholomew."

In shock, Bartholomew said, "No way."

His disbelief was understandable in light of the other four finalists. "It is very humbling," he said. "What an outstanding group, it's an honor to be anywhere associated with these Sailors."

After spending a week together, the finalists had learned just how similar they were. Although celebrated for their individual excellence, the group agreed that their accomplishments would have been impossible without the support of their families and fellow Sailors.



"If any one of us said we got here on our own merit, they are crazy," said Glendenning. "Everything is a team effort, and if it wasn't for my Sailors up and down [my chain of command], I wouldn't be here."

Much like Bartholomew, Wright said being selected would have been a complete surprise. "There are four other Sailors here that are better than me. I've been around them and their families for the past couple days, and I know they are awesome Sailors. I would put them before me."

During the competition the candidates displayed their commitment to service before self by encouraging one another, commenting that despite their own accomplishments they saw each other as equal. "We have a great camaraderie," said Glendenning. "Yes, we are all competing, but we all are family. Whether the other person gets it or not, it's a group effort."

All finalists referenced the theme of a collective professional effort.

"What got me here are three things: my team, my mentors and my family," said Flemming. "My team put up with a lot of long hours and hard work. My mentors, they steer me in the right direction. I want to go left, and they pull me right. And my family, my wife and my daughters, are really what drives me to work hard."

Harrison also placed her success squarely on her Sailors' shoulders, "My Sailors brought me here today, everything they have done. I am here as a representative of them. You can take

the Reserves as far as you want, as long as you take care of your shipmates."

Bartholomew was the only finalist unable to bring his spouse to the ceremony with him. "She had to stay home to take care of our daughters," he said. Similar to his multiple deployments, his family is supporting him from home.

Soon after he was announced as the winner he was ushered to a quiet area where he called his wife to tell her the news. "I told her it was all over, and I was coming home," he said, trying to downplay the announcement. "Then I told her that she would have to come back with me next month because I was the winner. I could hear her and the girls yelling in the background."

Each finalist received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their accomplishment. A month later, Bartholomew returned with his family to Washington for the Chief of Naval Operations Sailor of the Year week hosted by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, where he was meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer.

The finalists developed a fellowship often forged during high-level competitions, and universally praised their families and fellow Sailors for their professional success. Both their similarities in service and contrast in excellence, allowed them to become the best of the best.

The envelope is now empty and the competition decided, but as Mitchell said, these Sailors are all winners. O



Day of Discovery

By Chief Hospital Corpsman Charles Linville, Expeditionary Medical Facility Great Lakes Det R



he University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Dentistry in conjunction with Navy Reserve Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Dallas One, Detachment O, hosted a "Day of Discovery." The event, for local high school students, provided an opportunity to explore the fields of dentistry and medicine. It also provided an opportunity for junior Reserve Sailors to develop leadership and mentoring skills.

John Cottrell, director of minority and special programs at the UMKC School of Dentistry, in coordination with Navy Reserve officers Cmdr. Derek Williams and Cmdr. Obie Austin, developed the concept for this event. Williams, associate professor of restorative dentistry at the UMKC School of Dentistry, and Austin, a nurse practitioner and vice president of general medicine at the Kansas City Care Clinic, initially conceptualized this program as an opportunity for the Navy to interact with area high school students.

According to Richard Bigham, assistant dean for student programs at UMKC School of Dentistry, "A Day of Discovery is a wonderful opportunity for students to be a part of hands-on activities related to health care. The success of this event is tied directly to the support of partners like the U.S. Navy Reserve. Without the participation of the Navy we would not be able to provide the role modeling and activities that inspire these students toward a future health career like dentistry."

Members from EMF Dallas One served as mentors and instructors during the day's activities. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jon Polner and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Daniel Weston

taught a basic first aid class. Austin and Chief Hospital Corpsman Joseph Meier led basic suturing classes, while corpsmen were on hand to assist the participants. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Darron King assisted with IV insertions on mannequins while Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Zook and Hospital Corpsman Crystal Srams conducted a blood pressure lab.

"It was an outstanding opportunity to work with such a diverse age group of students," said Weston. "I believe it was a great

The success of this event is tied directly to the support of partners like the U.S. Navy Reserve. 99

experience to integrate our Sailors with the students because we can sometimes seem like another culture to them. Many students have never interacted with military personnel."

UMKC student members of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association (SNDA/HSDA) also participated and instructed the participants as they practiced drilling, filling and taking dental impressions of plastic model teeth. Lt. Cmdr. Robinson Kiser, a dentist in EMF Dallas One, Detachment O, enjoyed the opportunity to engage with third and fourth year Health Profession Scholarship Program (HPSP) students.

"I found it rewarding to be able to take them through life in the Navy and give them a better gauge and expectation for life as a

EMF Dallas Sailors partner with University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry



Navy dentist," said Kiser.

EMF Dallas One provides a standardized, modular, flexible ashore medical and dental service capability across the full range of military operations. The unit is an interdisciplinary team consisting of medical, dental, nursing and medical service personnel. The headquarters for EMF Dallas One is located in Fort Worth, Texas, with 20 detachments throughout the Midwest and Texas, which includes Detachment O based at Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Kansas City, Missouri.

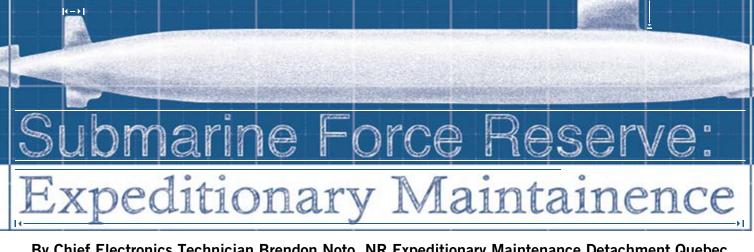
"EMF Dallas Det O is dedicated to stressing the importance of advanced education," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Joe Meier, senior enlisted leader of Detachment O. "Currently over 75 percent of our enlisted members are in advanced education programs, five are finishing bachelor's degrees and hope to enter medical school. This type of dedication to future Navy Medicine ensures that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have the best trained staff caring for them."

Meier is also a third-year medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Officer candidate Erich Chen (formerly HM3) became interested in dentistry while serving in the Navy Reserve in Detachment O. He was exposed to dentistry through the Dental Explorers program and "A Day of Discovery." He decided to apply to dental school and is currently a second vear student.

Day of Discovery participants are recruited through several organizations including: Children's Mercy Medical Explorer Post; Latinos of Tomorrow; Avanzando Scholars, the Learning Institute

Pipeline Program; University Academy; UMKC Admission Enhancement Program; Prep Kansas City; U.S. Naval Sea Cadets; University of Missouri-Columbia Pre-Dental Club: and Kuwait Pre-Dentistry Program. UMKC Explorer organizers also attend high school career days in search of interested students, especially those from under-represented populations within the health care field. O





By Chief Electronics Technician Brendon Noto, NR Expeditionary Maintenance Detachment Quebec

he expeditionary maintenance (EM) community within the Submarine Force Reserve Component provides great opportunities for skilled technicians throughout the year to strut their know-how and support the submarine tenders USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Emory S. Land (AS 39).

Not only does this allow Navy Reserve Sailors the opportunity to visit a great place like Guam at a time that fits their schedule, but it also offers them the extremely rare privilege of earning their enlisted surface warfare specialist (ESWS) qualification.

The chance to earn an ESWS qualification is so rare in the Naval Reserve that when Ensign Chuck Daly, the administrative department head of EM Det Romeo was a hull maintenance technician 3rd class, he was told that it was impossible.

"As someone new to the Navy, I noticed that the majority of the Sailors in my unit wore either submarine 'dolphins' or an ESWS

pin," said Daly. "I asked a lot of questions about what it took to get an ESWS pin and was told, as a Reservist, I'd never be able to do it."

In 2010, then Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Daly, achieved what he was told was impossible and earned his ESWS

"I scored a 95% on my exam. The board started with six Sailors, I was the only Selected Reservist; the rest were ship's company," said Daly. "At the end of the damage control portion of the board, I was the only one left. I was pinned in a ceremony the following day by the ship's command master chief."

While it may be more common for Reserve Sailors to earn enlisted expeditionary warfare specialist or Seabee combat warfare specialist qualifications, it is far from impossible to earn an ESWS qualification with expeditionary maintenance.

Daly credits much of his career success to his ESWS pin. He

"Working in the submarine force Reserve Component's EM competency is a place where Sailors can get the best of all worlds."



doesn't believe he would have been selected for chief petty officer in 2013, or his commission through the limited duty officer program in 2014, had it not been for his ability to earn the ESWS qualification.

"I was one of three total who were advanced to chief hull maintenance technician, and I was one of two chosen for the 6235 designator last year," said Daly. "I know that having my warfare qualification helped differentiate me from the other applicants."

Serving in the EM gives Reserve Sailors a taste of shipboard life. USS Frank Cable offers Reserve Sailors the chance to go underway with the ship and work day in and day out with active duty Sailors assigned to the ship. EM Sailors can work on the shipboard systems that will develop their in-rate knowledge, and directly increase their chances of advancing on subsequent exams and being billeted to an afloat command.

Does earning your ESWS pin in the Reserves sound intimidating? It shouldn't! Logistics Specialist 1st Class Megan Tobin, the senior enlisted leader of EM Det Oscar, earned hers in less than four months.

"I started my qualification in May [2009] and was pinned in August of that same year. I went out and completed most of the sign offs and learned everything I could," explained Tobin. "I then went home and studied for a few months, then went out to do the department specific areas, testing and oral board."

Tobin said the support of the active duty crew, her family, and her civilian employer were instrumental in her being able to achieve her goal of getting pinned.

"I have a great support system when it comes to my family, and the Veterans Administration gives me a lot of time to go on deployment and is very supportive of my military career," said Tobin. "A few of the Sailors who I met gave me their email address so I could ask any questions I had while studying remotely."

Being successful in the Navy Reserve is always about keeping a balance between one's military job, civilian job and their family. With a solid support system, and a lot of motivation, anyone can earn their pin.

The difficulty of earning the qualification is a motivator for Hull Maintenance Technician 3rd Class James Montonya, a member of EM Det November, who is in the process of completing the ESWS qualification.

"It's definitely a challenge being a Reservist and trying to earn your ESWS [pin], but that's part of the reason I want to earn the ESWS," said Montonya.

The prerequisite requirements vary depending on the rank of the Sailor, but everyone must complete damage control, 3M, and in-port and underway watch station qualifications prior to taking a variety of tests.

"It usually takes two or three visits along with an underway period," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Cina Quezada, USS Frank Cable, Reserve support chief. "If any member is near completion, ADT funding can be used if it's available. Reserve Sailors return home from Guam with their ESWS pin every year."



Visiting Guam, where USS Frank Cable is homeported, can be a motivating factor to join the EM community. Guam is a U.S. territory and it is an up-and-coming Pacific tourist destination. The water is the greatest attraction because the island has beautiful beaches and plenty of diving and snorkeling opportunities. There are also volunteer activities that help Sailors interact with the native Chamorro people.

"On my last deployment to Guam, my unit was able to take a few days and help prepare a school that caters to underprivileged kids get ready for the new school year," said Montonya. "We were able to provide labor for painting, insulating, cleaning and moving study materials. They were very grateful for our help and I was grateful for the opportunity to serve them."

Working in the Submarine Force Reserve Component's EM competency is a place where Sailors can get the best of all worlds. Sailors get to put their hands on the equipment that they get tested on in advancement exams, they get to see an incredible place, all while advancing their skills as a Sailor and receiving the opportunity of earning an ESWS qualification.

If you have questions about EM opportunities, visit the Submarine Forces link under the Communities tab on the Navy Reserve Homeport. O



TALENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

we are talking about systems and tactics in the digital age or personnel management, we must evolve to meet the needs of ftness, attracts and retains innovative thinkers, provides flexible career paths, and prioritizes merit over tenure. Whether 66 What we've always known is that the way we recruit, develop, retain and promote Sailors and Marines is critical to our success. To fight and win, we need a force that draws from the broadest talent pools, values health and the future battle space and the needs of our people. Today we shift from 'what-ifs' to what's next..."

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

Culture of Fitness

Navy fitness initiatives (2016-2017) - The Navy and Marine Corps' fitness culture should focus on producing warfighters capable of accomplishing any mission any time and supporting healthy lifestyles to reduce overall medical costs. To do so, we will make the following changes:

- ★ When measuring body fat, we will evaluate health, not shape
- ★ Incorporate physical fitness spot-checks to augment cycles, promoting the year-round culture of fitness.
- ★ Performance scores documented on FITREP / Evals.
- ★ Expand Navy gym hours, including many CAC accessible 24/7 beginning in 2016.
- ★ Issue Navy fitness suit by the end of 2016.
- ★ Authorize the "Outstanding Fitness Award" for those who perform at an outstanding level over 3 consecutive cycles, with corresponding badge to be worn on the new fitness suit
- ★ Begin "Fuel to Fight" healthy eating pilot programs at sea and ashore, fleet implementation 2017.

Uniform

Department of the Navy has conducted a thorough review and both services have initiated the transition to the same uniform for both males and females. ★ One Uniform - Navy and Marine Corps are trending toward uniforms that don't divide us as male or female but unite us as Sailors and Marines. The

Adaptive Workforce

- greater integration produces vast improvements in innovation, adaptability, and resilience all powerful forces for an even stronger Navy. The Department ★ Continue to increase female enlisted accessions (2015) – Navy and Marine Corps should reflect the nation they serve. As American industry teaches us, of the Navy will continue to place emphasis on attracting, recruiting and retaining women to work in ratings in which women are under-represented
- integration recommendations to the Secretary of Defense. He is personally committed to opening all operational billets to women and believes in imposing Opening all operational billets to women (2016) – The Secretary of the Navy supports the Navy and Marine Corps' efforts to provide data-based gender one standard for both sexes, a standard that matches the needs of the job.
- Navy and Marine Corps have instituted an extensive Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program which has led to increased reporting and has provid-Environment intolerant of sexual assault - The Department of the Navy will continue to offer programs of prevention, advocacy and accountability. The ed critical support to those who come forward, including regulations prohibiting any form of retaliation against those reporting sexual assaults.
- ★ Update co-location policy (2015) New policy will promote career progression and opportunity for each member serving our Navy and Marine Corps families and support joint and reserve co-location initiatives.
- Extended Child Development Center hours (2015) To accommodate the needs of Navy and Marine Corps families subject to high operational tempo, we will begin hiring immediately so that we can extend the operating hours of CDCs worldwide by four hours – two hours in the morning and two in the evening. *
- ★ Proposal to extend maternity leave (2016) Propose legislation that will double paid maternity leave from 6 to 12 weeks.
- ★ Expanded Career Intermission Program (2015, 2016) Have proposed legislation this year that will allow us to expand CIP from 40 billets to 400. Next year we will propose legislation developing a customized menu of compensation, length of intermission and payback options.
- ★ Increased bonus opportunities Propose legislation allowing Department of the Navy leaders to selectively grant bonuses based on specific skill-sets and talent, rather than across the board.

Performance-Based Advancement

- ★ Altered promotion selection board process (2016) Replace zones with weighted milestone achievements to ensure the best officers are promoted regardless of zone placement and prior selection board decisions. Ending an all-or-nothing, "up-or-out," system, allowing all to compete based on professional
- and eligibility for promotion and leadership assignments. Allows those who are not ready for promotion to continue to serve in same paygrade longer, or for Revised Year Group management (2017) - Propose legislation to eliminate officer management by year group to ensure performance determines timeline those ready, to advance through the system faster. *

Warrior Scholar

- ★ General Military Training changes Ending GMT as we know it. Will allow commanding officers to determine what DoN-directed training is necessary and when. Will also develop a mobile app for relevant training and continued education (2017).
- ★ Increased opportunities for graduate education (2015) Expand fully-funded, in-residence graduate degree opportunities at civilian institutions by 30 billets. TYCOMS will identify proven operators to represent the Navy at our nation's top institutions and bring knowledge and expertise back to the Fleet.
- at some of America's top civilian companies, gaining valuable experience and further enriching the talent pool of the Navy and Marine Corps with the SECNAV Industry Tours (2015) – Establish SECNAV Industry Tours, which allow commanding officers to send their best qualified officers to work competitiveness of the corporate business cycle. *



ARDIN SINTRY

Supporting Civil Authorities in Disaster Response

magine if a 7.8 magnitude earthquake rattled Southern California causing the collapse of thousands of homes and buildings, injuring thousands of people, and creating widespread power outages. Impacts to the infrastructure would likely include heavily damaged roadways and bridges, the severing of water supplies to millions of people, and severe disruptions of operations in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Federal, state and local authorities would be called into action to initiate searchand-rescue efforts, deliver emergency medical capabilities, and provide food, water and shelter, among other critical support services, to the displaced

residents of Southern California.

Though the events of this disaster were simulated during exercise Ardent Sentry 2015 (AS15), the planning, coordination and execution of the response activities between federal, state and local agencies were very real. AS15 provided a highly complex, integrated training environment where federal, state and local emergency responders were able to practice their procedures and validate their processes in a "Whole of Community" response to the simulated disaster.

AS15, a joint exercise conducted by North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), focused on Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). In addition to NORAD, USNORTHCOM and its components and subordinates, AS15 also included participation by the California National Guard, California Office of Emergency Services, SEDENA (Mexican Secretariat of National Defense), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Headquarters, and FEMA Region IX.

Conducted primarily as a Command Post Exercise with supporting field training exercise elements, AS15 enabled the DoD to apply its capabilities and authorities to support a "Whole of Community" response to the simulated catastrophic event in Southern California.



▲ Navy Reserve, Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Sailors pose for a group photo at U.S. 3rd Fleet headquarters after completing Ardent Sentry 2015. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jesse L. Gonzalez)

By Lt. Ken Hagihara, NR Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Headquarters Public Affairs and Lt. Kathryn Gray, NR Commander, Navy Region Southwest Regional Operations Center

Exercises such as AS15 enable the DoD to work alongside federal, state and local authorities to respond to man-made or natural disasters, special events, and other domestic emergencies.

U.S. Navy commands involved in AS15 included Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet (U.S. 3rd Fleet), Commander, Navy Region Southwest

Regional Operations Center (CNRSW ROC), Commander, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific (HSCWP), Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1 and Naval Construction Group (NCG) 1.

With such a large number of participants, a firm understanding of command and control was essential. To this end, U.S. 3rd Fleet played a

"It is very comforting to know that our Reserve Sailors are fully integrated into ROC real world and exercise operations"

pivotal role in the planning, exercise and execution of AS15. "3rd Fleet served as the command element for all naval forces responding to the exercises in Southern California," stated Lt. Cmdr. Todd Stansfield, U.S. 3rd Fleet Maritime

Command Element (MCE) Future Operations Officer.

To address the anticipated support requirements during the AS15 disaster

scenario, 3rd Fleet simulated the deployment of aircraft under immediate response authority to provide searchand-rescue support to impacted areas. In addition, they planned and executed

simulated pre-positioning of assets including an aircraft carrier and Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with embarked aircraft, medical teams, landing craft, and a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to provide immediate response.

ARDENT SENTRY '5

A ready team of DSCA-trained officers and enlisted personnel was also on hand to provide support to AS15 and the ongoing DSCA mission. As Stansfield explained, training is the primary requirement for DSCA team members, "but our team is comprised of a variety of designators that can provide expertise in areas such as logistics and operations."

Navy Reserve Sailors play critical roles in the planning and execution of DSCA exercises and real-world missions.

Key to the ongoing Navy planning and response component of the DSCA support mission are Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (NEPLOs). According to Capt. Perry Parisi, a Navy Reserve Sailor and NEPLO assigned to Commander, Navy Region Southwest, NEPLOs are comprised of Navy Reserve commanders and captains from all Navy designators who "are the Navy's liaisons to the states, FEMA, and other commands to assist in DSCA activities.

NEPLOs facilitate communications between the DoD, governors, and Title 10 assets. Anytime there is a big disaster, there will likely be a NEPLO involved."

There are 10 FEMA regions, each with a NEPLO detachment and a few NEPLOs assigned. Additionally, each state has at least one NEPLO assigned.

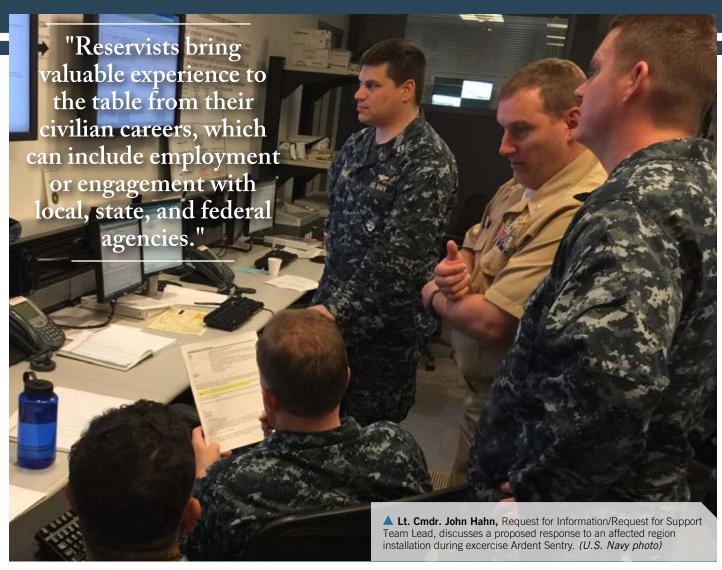
In addition to the two Southern California NEPLOs assigned to U.S. 3rd Fleet and Navy Region Southwest, DSCAtrained U.S. 3rd Fleet Reserve Sailors from a variety of designators, including operations, logistics, medical, and public affairs, provided support to AS15.

"Supporting the DSCA mission is a top priority for 3rd Fleet and, therefore, is a top priority for the 3rd Fleet headquarters Reserve unit," explained Lt. Cmdr. Howard Diaz, deputy operations officer, NR U.S. 3rd Fleet headquarters. "Reservists bring valuable experience to the table from their civilian careers, which can include employment or

engagement with local, state, and federal agencies. Relationships with these entities are vital to accomplishing the DSCA mission. Civilian career experience coupled with DSCA training allows Reservists who 'speak DSCA' to provide immediate direct support and integrate with the active component staff seamlessly within rapidly-changing and evolving crisis environments."

Reserve Sailors from CNRSW ROC were also amongst the many Reserve Sailors participating in AS15. CNRSW ROC Sailors perform year-round training to prepare and ensure that the continuity of operations during times of disasters is effective and efficient. Response plans, watchstander training/qualifications, equipment maintenance, and processes and procedures are continually reviewed and exercised for various emergency situations to maintain critical operations, save lives, and restore essential operations and services throughout the





region.

Capt. Robert Nowakowski, commanding officer, CNRSW ROC, added, "The expertise and collaboration skills that each Sailor brings to the ROC is critical to the overall success of the region's emergency response mission. Ranging from providing judge advocate general, chaplain, security officer and knowledge management officer support to the crisis action team (CAT) chief, battle watch supervisor, journal log manager, and request for information/ request for support (RFI/RFS) clerks and managers, our Sailors are qualified and fully integrated into the ROC's incident action plans. I am proud and honored to know that the level of professionalism and commitment by our Sailors in support of Navy Region Southwest is continually praised by our active component and civilian partners."

Information Systems Technician 1st Class Albert Rivera, along with several other CNRSW ROC Sailors, processed over 80 RFI/RFSs during AS15. "It is rewarding to work at the ROC level to experience and appreciate the vast amount of coordination and liaising required to respond to an emergency of this magnitude," said Rivera.

Mr. Kurt Stoney, CNRSW ROC Manager, understands the value of the capabilities that Reserve Sailors bring to not only the exercise, but during potential real world scenarios. "The CNRSW ROC Reserve Unit has been a real force multiplier in a manpower challenged environment. From augmenting the battle watch team during real world normal operations to augmenting the crisis action team during exercise operations, the CNRSW ROC Reserve team has substantially, and admirably, provided direct operational

support with great enthusiasm."

According to Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Barnes, CNRSW current operations officer (N33) and CAT operations section lead, "It is very comforting to know that our Reserve Sailors are fully integrated into ROC real world and exercise operations. Without their skillsets and unique capabilities supplementing the ROC planning, logistics, operations and financial/administrative cells, we would not have adequate resource capacity to sustain a catastrophic event in the region."

Joint, interagency and international relationships strengthen the Navy's ability to respond to crises and protect the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its allies and partners. Commands such as U.S. 3rd Fleet and CNRSW are essential to domestic and international disaster response. O



By Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center Public Affairs

Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) merged with Navy Mobilization Processing Site (NMPS) in April 2015.

The merger brings together the expertise of two organizations responsible for taking care of active and Reserve Sailors who temporarily deploy in support of a mission as part of another unit or command as an Individual Augmentee (IA). The merger is designed to be a win-win for ECRC, NMPS and IA Sailors, since everything will be under one roof. It should simplify the process for those that are leaving their family and friends for a boots-onground assignment.

"This merger will be completely transparent to the IA Sailor as they prepare for and deploy on their mobilization. It will result in a more efficient provision of service," said Cmdr. Charles Merrill, ECRC operations officer.

The significance of the merger is that mobilizing Sailors and families will now have primary and reach-back support from a single command throughout their IA deployment, allowing them to leverage the assets of both groups.

Sailors chosen to fulfill an IA assignment or Reserve mobilization will complete all required Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) courses, and all medical and administrative checklists before processing through NMPS. This will occur prior to deployment to ensure compliance with Navy guidance and combatant commander's (CCMD) requirements. Sailors will again process through NMPS when their IA or mobilization is complete.

According to the NMPS mission statement, NMPS provides rapid, ready, professional manpower support to deploy and redeploy active and Reserve components called in support of contingency operations worldwide. It is the goal of the NMPS to ensure all Sailors are provided an expedient, efficient and non-stressful processing experience.

"This merger is a great idea because of its future impact on IA Sailors. We now have the combined resources to effectively support the IA Sailor throughout the entire deployment," said NMPS Command Master Chief Deborah Lee.

While NMPS processes the IAs, ECRC's mission is to provide





oversight by working with upper echelon commands to ensure manning requirements are met, training sites are staffed, and supplies are available in support of Sailors for overseas contingency operations. Additionally, ECRC's parent command, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) acts as local area coordinator for mobilization (LACMOB) for all Navy activations and mobilizations.

ECRC is also responsible for the warrior transition program (WTP) in Sembach, Germany, which helps facilitate IA Sailors' return and ease the reintegration process with families, commands and communities following a war zone deployment. The program involves a series of briefs and interviews that are designed to help Sailors make the transition back to the United States or parent command.

Comprised mostly of Reserve personnel, ECRC, NMPS and WTP work hand-in-hand to provide a non-stressful IA/mobilization experience; because, at the end of the day, it's all about taking care of our Sailors and their families during times of separation.

"Our goal with the merger is to build on the great work NMPS has always done by becoming an entity that serves IAs from the beginning to the end of their mobilization process," said Capt. Joseph Rehak, ECRC commanding officer.

ECRC staff currently assigned to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Ft. Story will transition to Naval Station Norfolk throughout the course of Fiscal Year 2015. O

"This merger is a great idea because of its future impact on IA Sailors. We now have the combined resources to effectively support the IA Sailor throughout the entire deployment."

Support for CLIFE

Strategic Sealift
Officer Program
Offers Merchant Mariners
Unique Navy Opportunities

▲ SS CORNHUSKER STATE inbound to Mohammed Al-Ahmad Kuwait Naval Base. (U.S. Navy photo)

By Capt. Mary Jo Mustello, Military Sealift Command

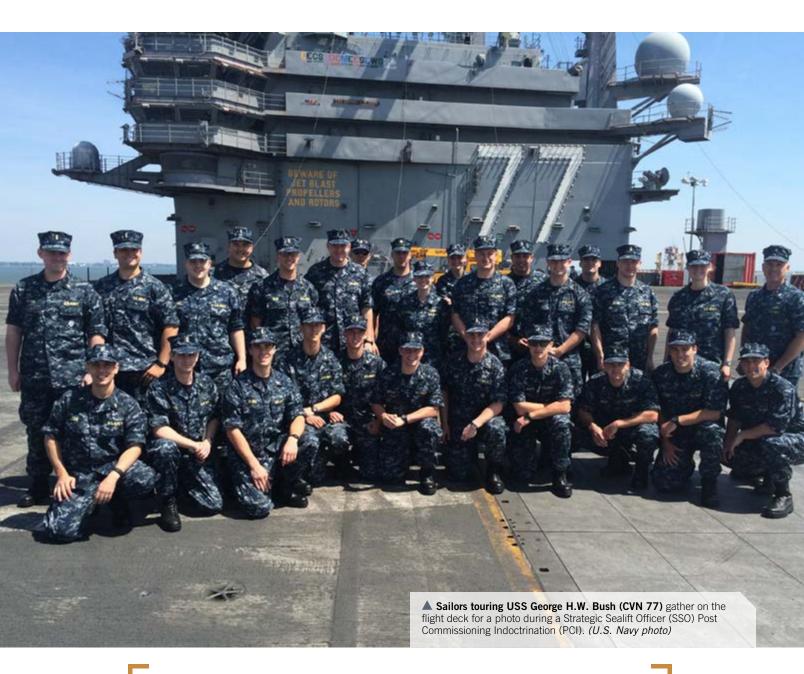
he U.S. Navy's Merchant Marine Reserve program has been serving America for over 102 years. You might be surprised to learn that right in your own Navy command or Reserve unit there are merchant marine officers who operate within the Strategic Sealift Officer Program (SSOP).

In June, 2011, the SSOP was created from the Merchant Marine Reserve, to better align with the emerging need for sealift/logistics in the modern theater of conflict and emergency preparedness. The SSOP supports national defense sealift requirements and capabilities, which are executed by Military Sealift Command (MSC), the flag sponsor of the program. The U.S. Navy and the entire U.S. military benefits from these officers whose technical training and civilian occupations are anchored to careers in fields that include commercial shipping, port operations, port engineers, ship surveyors, maritime logistics,

naval architecture, ship piloting, shipyard management, vessel security, technical representatives and admiralty law.

"No one is more aware of the talent and expertise our SSOP community brings to MSC and our Navy than me," said Rear Adm. Thomas Shannon, commander, Military Sealift Command. "I personally saw the contributions one of our great MSC SSOs, Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Winstead, made to MARAD's successful activation and conversion of M/V Cape Ray from a RO/RO to a chemical weapons processing facility in just over two months. It is our intent to continue to integrate our SSO community into all we do at MSC and as part of that effort I brought an SSO, Lt. Patricia Greene, on as our MSC Flag Lieutenant for a year. There is a wealth of talent and potential in our SSO community and we must maximize the use of it."

The mission of the SSOP is to maintain a cadre of Strategic



"There is a wealth of talent and potential in our SSO community and we must maximize the use of it."

Reserve, who possess an unlimited U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine credential (license). They are trained to operate merchant ships as naval auxiliaries and provide crewing for the Ready Reserve Force (RRF) and Surge Sealift vessels during a Presidential Reserve Call-up.

Sealift Officers (SSOs) within the U.S. Navy

"Right now, the most critical component for deployment anywhere in the world is sealift" said retired Army Lt. Gen. William G. Pagonis, director of logistics, during the first Gulf War. "Normal shipping does not stop during times of conflict and having the capability to call-up the licensed reserve merchant

mariners will be the critical mass essential to ensuring a successful deployment of all supplies. During the first Gulf War, I had weekly meetings with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and he understood

the intricacies of logistics, and he had a great appreciation for the merchant marine and sealift. We were able to transport over 520,000 troops by air, but the tremendous amount of equipment and supplies needed to support them had to come by sea. This massive build-up was achieved by the secret hero of the Gulf War, the U.S. Merchant Marine."

SSOs are primarily trained through the Strategic Sealift Midshipmen Program at the United States Merchant Marine



Academy, Kings Point, New York, as well as the six state maritime schools. The four-year curriculum at these institutions includes nearly one year spent at sea as an engine or deck cadet aboard commercial and training vessels. Upon graduating and passing a USCG Merchant Marine Credential (license) exam, the midshipmen, commissioned as Navy ensigns, commit to an eight year military service obligation. Their first task is to qualify for the SSO warfare insignia within their first three years in the program.

Of the 2,100 SSOs, 85% are members of the Individual Ready

The remaining 15% of SSOs participate in the Selected Reserves serving in units with Military Sealift Command, Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, and the Office of Naval Intelligence to name a few.

"In my 27 year Navy career, I have had lots of past affiliations with the Reserves. Nowhere in that time has that relationship been more effective than it is with MSC. The meshing of the MSC billets and SSO billets is truly, nearly perfect in this situation,"

"Strategic Sealift Officers are an invaluable resource for MSC. Through the SSOP, we are able to bring real experts to our command to support our operations and exercises."

Reserve (IRR) assigned to the Strategic Sealift Readiness Group (SSRG) and have the distinction of being the only managed and funded IRR program in the Navy with a mission. Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command N14 serves as a "virtual" Navy Operational Support Center for the program's members and is the single point manager for all guidance, training and administration for this program. SSRG SSOs are required to complete a minimum of 12 days of active duty for training (ADT) each year, however many SSOs are able to do extended ADTs, active duty for special work, or mobilizations in support of a vast array of real world needs and exercises. Because of the unique background provided, and the program's flexibility, SSOs can plug into a wide array of requirements at gaining Navy and Joint commands.

commented Capt. Michael Taylor, commander, Military Sealift Command Pacific. "The mission and organization of MSC truly takes that capability and uses it to its maximum extent. Strategic Sealift Officers are the integrator for all our operations; the N3 shop could not operate without that influx of SSOs, as they fit together perfectly."

SSOs have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways around the world. Many have successfully provided operational support in a multitude of roles to MSC including; maritime transportation specialist, MSC office executive officer, MSC fleet operations officer, MSC representative, surface router, port engineer, as well as a wide array of exercise support.

"Strategic Sealift Officers are an invaluable resource for MSC.

Through the SSOP, we are able to bring real experts - licensed mariners - to our command to support our operations and exercises," said Charlie Brown, operational support officer, MSC Far East. "They all bring their critical and highly specialized skills from the maritime industry, directly to our missions. There is no substitute for their sailing experience and that really makes a meaningful impact to the success of our missions."

Since 2003, the licensed ship pilots within the SSO program have supplied over 2,560 days of pilot support to Combined Task Force 53 moving U.S. and allied vessels into and out of ports in Kuwait when U.S. Navy and Kuwaiti pilots were unavailable to meet the demand.

"These SSO SME's have proven to be exceptional leaders with the specialized skill sets, experience, maturity, integrity and professionalism to operate successfully, either independently or as an integral part of my forward deployed, operational Far East staff," said Capt. Paul Harvey, commander, MSC Far East. Harvey lauded, "Capt. Gary Edberg, SSRG SSO licensed Master Mariner, is currently my acting director of my ship's support unit in Yokohama, Japan. During a real world international incident, the recent grounding and salvaging operation of the Kocak in Okinawa, Japan – having assigned Edberg to go to Okinawa to assist and augment my MSC Okinawa team there, his experience as a ships master was so crucial during the entire salvage operation that through his knowledge of commercial tanker

operations, and his fuel oil debunker recommendations to float the ship off the reef, he singlehandedly saved MSC thousands of dollars and reduced the entire refloating and salvage operation to just weeks...vice months."

"Lt. Cmdr. John French, SSRG SSO licensed Master Mariner - originally assigned as MSCFE's SSO LNO in Sasebo, Japan, is now in Singapore holding my fleet operations officer billet," said Harvey. "During two major typhoons last July 2014, that directly affected the Japanese Islands, French with his chief mate experience, was instrumental in working with the ships masters of the four MSC ship's in port Sasebo, ensuring each was fully 'heavy weather prepared' to safely ride out the typhoons while berthed in Sasebo. French again was instrumental in standing up and managing the coordination center in Okinawa, overseeing the salvaging operations of the Kocak. The incredible versatility, knowledge and insight from the maritime experiences that French brings to my MSCFE organization are priceless and I wish I had more like him on my staff."

The SSOP is a necessity to the MSC enterprise and is the nation's answer to strategic sealift. The program as a whole retains a unique talent for the Navy that is inherent to no other part of the force. The SSOP provides a flexible and adaptive highly skilled manpower pool that is ready now and ready always to serve the Navy and Joint force. O





Navy Reserve Centennial























ELAINE ALLEN

Navy Operational Support Center North Island Command Ombudsman

After serving 26 years on active and reserve duty, Elaine Allen continues to provide support to Reserve Sailors. As the Command Ombudsman for NOSC North Island and it's 53 Reserve units. Allen utilizes her experiences to aid the families of the many mobilized personnel, Mrs. Allen spearheads the care packages for deployed Sailors program, as well as the Battalion Buddy program which provides a teddy bear for service member's children when they deploy. Mrs. Allen has been an Ombudsman at NOSC North Island for more than 10 years and through the tours of four commanding officers.



Faces of the Force



Reserve Component Command San Diego

Machinist's Mate 1st Class Aaron Bonniwell. MM1 Aaron Bonniwell is the supply petty officer and unit recruiter for Surgemain Phoenix. He recently completed a Master of Science degree in applied science and technology from Thomas Edison State College, earning the Arnold Fletcher Award for Academic Excellence. In his civilian career he is a systems engineer at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. While on AT at Navy Submarine Base, Point Loma, MM1 qualified as a Freeze Seal Operator, a qualification normally reserved for shipyard workers, saving the shipyard man-hours and money to accomplish the mission.



Reserve Component Command Everett

Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Robert Hinojosa. PS2 Hinojosa's processing of Expiration of Active Obligated Service (EOS) data and PMR directly lead to RCC Everett leading the Reserve Force with zero expired EOS during the 1st Quarter of FY15 and zero expired High Year Tenure (HYT)s. He processed more than 73 PMRs, and provided EOS and HYT data on mobilized Sailors, to prevent their contracts from expiring or exceeding HYT while on active duty, avoiding potential Reserve contract discrepancies during the demobilization process. His efforts resulted in his selection as RCC Everett Staff Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 1st Quarter, FY15.



Reserve Component Command Fort Worth

Logistics Specialist 1st Class Andre Stetz. LS1 was born in Krakow, Poland. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2005 and earned his U.S. citizenship in 2007. He has served four Persian Gulf deployments and completed an IA to Afghanistan. He currently serves as leading petty officer at NOSC San Diego in the Supply Department. Most notably, LS1 and 11 teammates raised over \$32,000 in donations by running in the 2014 New York City Marathon. Due to his diverse efforts, LS1 was selected as NOSC San Diego's "Sailor of the Year" in 2014 for his devotion to service both on and off duty.



Reserve Component Command San Diego

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 1st Class Dario Roaquin. ABF1 is a Reserve Sailor who was assigned to NCHB 14 Fuels Unit and then moved into the OSU at NOSC North Island. He was recently approved and re-enlisted back into active duty. His most recent achievement was being ranked 2 of 10 First Class Petty Officers while serving as LPO of one of the largest units in NOSC North Island. He is temporarily assigned to the RESPAY/Manpower Department, assisting with the large amount of paperwork required to support over 1,500 SELRES.



Reserve Component Command Norfolk

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Yleana McIntyre . HM2 McIntyre serves as a health services representative, as well as the Line of Duties (LOD) and physical evaluation board program manager. Her performance was instrumental in managing more than 120 personnel with deployment-limiting conditions, coordinating updates with medical department representatives and providing guidance on case dispositions. She serves as the command SAPR, White Hat Association President, regional health promotions coordinator, and assistant command fitness leader. HM2's accomplishments led to her selection as the Regional JSOQ, 2nd Quarter, FY15.



Reserve Component Command Norfolk

Yeoman 1st Class Derrick Farrell. YN1 Farrell is assigned to Navy Operational Support Center Bangor and serves as the command leading petty officer. He is responsible for leading six Sailors providing all administrative, health readiness, training and logistics to five Reserve units. YN1 also serves as the command career counselor providing support and tracking the careers of 110 Reserve Sailors. His accomplishments led to his selection as the Regional Sailor of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter, FY15.

Navy Reserve Force Phone Directory



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